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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS

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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

AMERICA

Highways and Byways of the Rocky Mountains. By Clifton Johnson. xi and 279 pp., and illustrations. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1910. \$2.

A well written, well illustrated, attractive and generally readable volume having little to do with the Rocky Mountains, as more than half of the chapters are devoted to the Plains States. The author has described the picturesque features of life in the region west of the 100th meridian and has emphasized particularly the life that is passing, as portrayed to him by old settlers. Yet he seems nowhere to have yielded to the spirit of the plains and mountains and does not write as one who has seen beneath the superficial features and gained inspiration from the grandeur of space, the beauty of form, the glory of color and the impressive silence of these vast areas which contain so much that is awe compelling.

The volume is not geographical in tone, as it merely describes in an unsystematic way the striking phenomena of life and scenery, with no thought, seemingly, of portraying wholes or of giving clear-cut impressions that are satisfying to the reader. The book is not informational, evidently by design, and is disappointing. It is not a volume for the expert or the ignoramus, but will be of interest to the person who knows the section with some intimacy, for it will add some sidelights that are not usually brought out. It is a volume for a summer day and a hammock, not for the traveller who is preparing for a trip through the Rocky Mountains.

R. E. DODGE.

Myths and Legends of the Pacific Northwest. Especially of Washington and Oregon. Selected by Katharine Berry Judson. xvi and 145 pp., and illustrations. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1910. \$1.50.

These Indian myths from the Northwest are typical of the child-like simplicity of the race in the face of the forces of nature and, for that reason, they may well find a place in the stages of the mental development of the child of the present. Most of the stories are connected with some physical feature of the country, as Mount Takhoma (?) the chinook wind and the rivers, while others are intended to explain certain animal characteristics as the run of the salmon and some are of a more general nature dealing with the problems of creation. The book is beautifully illustrated with photographs of the locations mentioned and among the fifty pictures are many which depict Indian types and characteristics. "A consistent effort has been made to tell the stories as the Indians told them" with the result of a very limping style which is somewhat tiresome for general reading. The preface is an admirable introduction to the spirit and contents of the book.

R. M. BROWN.